



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 12, 2002

### **H.R. 2146**

### **Two Strikes and You're Out Child Protection Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on March 6, 2002*

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2146 would result in additional costs to the federal government to accommodate prisoners for longer periods of time. CBO estimates that the cost to support these additional prisoners would be about \$3 million over the 2003-2007 period, subject to the availability of appropriations. Enacting H.R. 2146 could affect direct spending and receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to the bill; however, CBO estimates that the amounts involved would be less than \$500,000 annually. H.R. 2146 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 2146 would provide for mandatory life imprisonment for most federal sex offenders whose victims are minors, if such offenders previously have been convicted of federal or state sex crimes involving a minor. Under current law, such offenders typically serve prison sentences of about three years. According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, the longer sentences required by H.R. 2146 would apply to no more than 50 cases in most years. At an annual cost per prisoner of about \$8,000 (in 2002 dollars), CBO estimates that the cost to support additional prisoners would be less than \$500,000 a year for the next few years, but would total about \$3 million over the 2003-2007 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Increasing prison sentences for offenders also would increase the maximum amount of fines that could be levied in some cases. Thus, enacting H.R. 2146 could increase governmental receipts through greater collections of criminal fines. However, CBO does not expect any such increase to exceed \$500,000 a year. Criminal fines are recorded as receipts and deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent without further appropriation action.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.